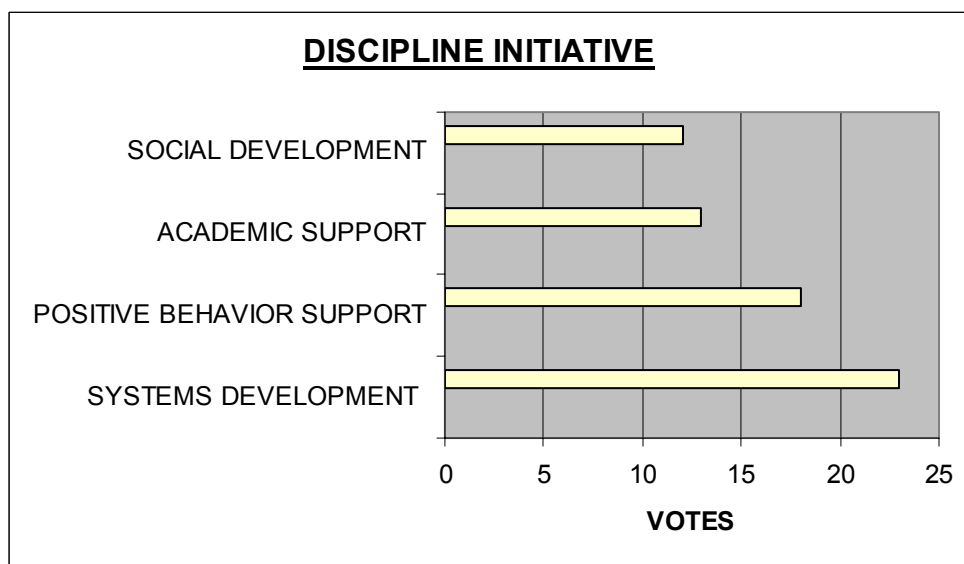




Discipline Initiative Think Tank Meeting July 30, 2003

The initial meeting of the Discipline Initiative Think Tank was conducted from 10:00-2:00 July 30, 2003. Superintendent Tom Horne presented the committee with their mission, which was to assist him with strategies to restore discipline to Arizona classrooms, in order to maximize student achievement. Superintendent Horne also indicated the need for developing alternative educational delivery systems for students not succeeding in their current setting. Committee members expressed their concerns regarding student behavior and school discipline. Following a general discussion of present problems in the schools, small groups were formed to create priority areas of concern for state-wide implementation. General areas of implementation were as follows:



Summary statements were made concerning these general areas, as well.

SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

1. **System development at state level** – the coordinated organization around the issue of discipline by the Arizona Department of Education.
2. **Communication systems** – the need for collaboration across available service systems in the state, developing partnerships.
3. **A consistent system of behavior** – well defined and articulated rules regarding student behavior and consequences, as well as a clear

understanding of behavioral expectations across all groups concerned, e.g., students, teachers, parents, administrators, school boards, and agencies.

SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

1. **On-going training and assessment** – the need at a school level for teams of teachers and administrators to become behavior experts and use best practices in writing discipline policy, forming problem-solving teams and dealing with student infractions.
2. **School policies** – the making and enforcing of school rules, behavioral expectations and consequences for both appropriate and inappropriate behaviors.
3. **Student and Family Supports** – the provision of personnel and written communication to inform families about the behavioral expectations at school and suggestions for assisting their children in developing appropriate behavior.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

1. **Placement options** – the provision of educational alternatives to best meet the diversity of student needs, either through programs and services within the school or at other educational sites.
2. **Engaged instruction** – acknowledgement of the connection between student behavior and the instructional variables affecting student learning, such as recognition of multiple intelligences, learning style, differential abilities, and cultural issues.

SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

1. **Social competencies** – the need to define and teach the expected social competencies to all stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, administrators and the community.

These four general areas, however, were all deemed important. Specifying projects within the areas will change the relative importance of general areas once again.

Just a reminder we need implementation plans in all three areas:

**Some efforts are good for ALL students,
some are good for SOME students,
and some are good for a FEW students.**

SUMMARY OF CURRENT DISCIPLINE INITIATIVE PROJECTS

- Survey conducted for teacher input to the State Superintendent (see the DI webpage)
- Discipline Initiative Task Force formed and working
- Implementation committees are being formed:
 - ✓ developing a technical document for schools to understand discipline law and best practices;
 - ✓ exploring educational alternatives for students;
 - ✓ developing a curriculum sequence for student social competencies;
 - ✓ training schools in positive behavior support strategies;
 - ✓ coordination of existing resources,
- agencies and policies at state level
- Discipline Initiative Webpage
- Links being added to the Arizona Department of Education Promising Practices website
- Arizona Behavior Initiative (ABI)
- Capacity Building Grants and training opportunities
- Character Education training
- Safe and Drug Free Schools Program
- Three Regional Behavior Institutes
- Brochures for teachers and parents regarding discipline law
- Needs assessment regarding school-wide behavior support ready to send out
- Internal State Department coordination of existing programs and initiatives related to student behavior and social/character development
- Mega Conference November 17-18, 2003, with national speakers on discipline issues
- Joint sponsorship for the Arizona Association of School Psychologists Annual Conference, Oct. 23-4 in Tucson, with focus on school-wide positive behavior support